



# **NORTON SOUND HEALTH CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 966  
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July 7, 2009

Record Center  
Pipeline & Hazardous materials Safety Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Washington, DC 20590

Attention: Record Center

Norton Sound Health Corporation, established in 1970, serves 15 villages within the Bering Strait region of Alaska. With the exception of Nome and Teller and St. Michael and Stebbins there are no roads connecting the village to each other or to other Alaskan communities. Nome, and Norton Sound Health Corporation relies on air transportation or barge services for delivery of food, equipment or other items such as medical oxygen. Therefore, this letter is in strong support for the Department to grant Special Permit application 14860-N.

NSHC currently receives on average 30 oxygen tanks each month. The commercial airlines are able to make space for the oxygen due to the type of cases we utilize. If we are required to switch to new boxes, that pack fewer tanks, this will impact our services in a negative way. Fewer tanks will be shipped back and forth between Nome and our surrounding villages, which may have a detrimental affect on patient care.

I urge the Department of Transportation to approve Special Permit application 14860-N.

Sincerely,

Norton Sound Health Corporation

Carol Piscoya,  
President & CEO

Cc: Hospital Services Vice President